



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Former Department of Agriculture Official Sentenced To 150 Days In Jail For Sexually Assaulting Employee**

WASHINGTON - William Buchanan, 60, the former Director of Civil Rights and Community Outreach in the Risk Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), was sentenced today to 150 days of incarceration on a charge of misdemeanor sexual abuse, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Buchanan, of Springfield, Va., pled guilty in March 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He was sentenced today by the Honorable Harold L. Cushenberry, Jr.

At his plea hearing in March, Buchanan admitted that on multiple occasions, between January 2010 and January 2011, he sexually assaulted a USDA employee, while he was her immediate supervisor. Specifically, Buchanan admitted that he frequently "patted" the victim's buttocks as she walked by him in their office at the USDA. Prior to his plea, Buchanan admitted in a signed statement to a series of incidents, including one in which he approached the victim at her desk and put his hand down her shirt, fondling her. Buchanan admitted that the victim never consented to his assaults, and that she repeatedly asked him to stop touching her inappropriately.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Special Agent Stan Wojtkonski, of the USDA Office of the Inspector General, who began the investigation and brought the matter to the attention of the U.S. Attorney's Office. He also recognized the dedicated work of U.S. Attorney's Office Victim Advocate Tracey Hawkins, Paralegal Joyce Arthur, and Legal Assistant Ashley Patterson. Lastly, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Heide L. Herrmann, who investigated and prosecuted the case.